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The Country Church and the Rural Problem. The Carew Lectures at Hartford Theological Seminary, 1909. By KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1911. Pp. x+153. \$1.00 net; \$1.08 postpaid.

This little book by the President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College is one that should be read by clergymen and others interested in church matters, not only in the country towns but in the cities. It may be characterized by two words—progressiveness and sanity. Although its title and plan seem to restrict its outlook to one part of a small phase of social reality, the scope of the discussion is broad. The author undertakes, in a brief and suggestive way, to point out the connection of the country church problem with the general social questions now before us. His opening sentence reads: "The country church faces a crisis" (p. v). Going on from this, it is refreshing to find that there is no single remedy or measure which, by its own virtue, is guaranteed to carry us triumphantly over the crisis. "There is no panacea for the rural problem," he writes. "There is no one solution for the difficulty" (pp. 35 and 64). "The church," he says further, "must be frankly regarded, by its best friends even, as one among several institutions vital to rural life. It is not the only institution essential to rural salvation" (p. 69). This kind of writing suggests wide experience of affairs, in contrast with the amateur deliverances that often come from those who are interested in religious matters. The rural problem is considered from the standpoint of society at large and from the standpoint of the internal organization of the country churches themselves. The book is a worthy addition to the growing literature of social thought within the Christian church.

LOUIS WALLIS

Our Slavic Fellow-Citizens. By EMILY GREENE BALCH. New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1910. Pp. xx+536. \$2.50.

Professor Balch has written a book which is both scientific and popular. She has thoroughly sifted the more or less unreliable statistics of this and other countries, as well as the writings of church and other historians among the various Slavic groups. She has taken the results secured by the Pittsburgh Survey and the data gathered by others in the anthracite coal fields and woven them into

the story of this migration which centers in Pennsylvania. Above all, she has secured balance and interpretative power by personal contact and travel among the people, both at home and abroad. In all this and more she has been scientific. At the same time, she has been popular in her style, in her sympathetic handling of translated and other native material, and in the human touch which is manifest throughout the whole work. The book will be as valuable and interesting to the popular reader and settlement and mission worker as to the scientific investigator. Necessarily this survey, comprehensive as it is, and essential as it is for a starting-point, is but preliminary to more intensive studies yet to be made. No one, however, can afford to overlook it, if he wishes to avoid useless repetition of hard work. Miss Balch is thoroughly in line with the best thought in social science when she traces the line of continuity of life and development by following the immigrant to his native land and thence to the home beyond the waters. Blood and tradition are not entirely dissipated by salt breezes nor even by hardship and isolation. More than that, as we wash out the European traits we may be robbing our country of some of its richest treasures. Still it is no easy task to disentangle the eight or more Slavic nationalities, to describe the characteristics of each group, and to relate them to their geographical, industrial, political, and traditional environments. But it is a fascinating study to the sociologist, a necessary one for the American (particularly for the Pennsylvanian) conscious of his obligations to the 4,000,000 Slavs in this country, whose rising flow already constitutes 22 per cent of our immigration. These peoples, dwarfed by niggardly nature and incessant fear of war, are scarcely emerged from the feudal stage, when they are driven by religious and political oppression or industrial disturbance and urged by economic advantage to leave the village which was their world to go where the world is their village. An enormous strain, for better or worse, is put upon them. Miss Balch believes that the gains outweigh the losses, but holds that immense losses could and should be avoided by the exercise of intelligence and conscience on the part of the more favored American people. Assimilation, even Americanization, is inevitable, but what are the types of conditions and conduct which are brought within the field of Slavic imitation? Even though the Slav does insist upon a piano before a carpet, what relative chance does he have in America to preserve his artistic and musical taste, or to

maintain his beautiful social life? Yet the Slav is getting on, acquiring land and bank accounts, and contributing in many ways to our upbuilding. His gain has not meant more than a lessening of the upward movement of American wages. The enormous expansion of industry, the capacity of the Slav for organization (giving results in the unionized mines far beyond those in the non-unionized steel mills), and the money ambition of the freely moving Slav, whose option of a return home has given us an elastic labor supply, have all contributed, in Miss Balch's opinion, to the maintenance, even the advancement, of American wages. "My people are perishing for lack of vision," said the Ruthenian priest. Perhaps he should have included the American also. Both need vision.

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La Pena e il Sistema Penale del Codice Italiano. By PROFESSOR UGO CONTI. Roma: Società Editrice Libreria, 1910. Pp. 970.

The distinguished Italian teacher of criminal law has not only described the system of his own country, but he has also furnished, with wealth of learning, a synopsis of the legislation and recent bills for laws of all civilized states. A distinction is made between "criminal law" and "penal law," the former dealing with offenses, the latter with penalties, the subject of this volume. The field is further marked off from the system of preventive social measures, reformatory education, care of insane offenders, and patronage of discharged prisoners.

The author discusses the theory of penalties in general, the various forms of penal sanction, the death penalty, imprisonment, conditional liberation, penalties not limiting liberty of movement, deportation, fines, substitutes for imprisonment, conditional sentences, the complements of penalty, the treatment of recidivists, reprimand and restrictions of domicile, the measurement of penalty, the civil and penal effects of conviction.

Valuable features of this volume are the full bibliographies and index.

The author represents the "classical" school of lawyers at its best. While he is a vigorous foe of the "indeterminate sentence,"